

JEAN ELIOT'S WEEKLY CHRONICLE OF CAPITAL SOCIETY

Spring Brides Yield Spotlight To Newcomers

FOR the moment the spring brides have yielded the spotlight to the important newcomers to official society. At pretty nearly every function of the week just passed the new Secretary of State and Mrs. Bainbridge Colby, the new Ambassador of Great Britain and Lady Geddes, or Mrs. Shidehara, who has just joined her husband, the Ambassador of Japan—or all of them—were the principal figures. And the calendar for the present week is thick-studded with festivities in honor of one or another of these notables.

Perhaps the most interesting event of the last week—i. e., the one of interest to the most people—was the reception given at the Pan American Building on Monday evening in celebration of the tenth anniversary of its dedication. John Barrett, director general of the Pan American Union, was host, with the Secretary of State, who is ex-officio chairman of the governing board, to assist him. Mrs. Colby was also in the receiving line. Likewise the Ambassador of Chile, Senor Mathieu, who is dean of the Latin American contingent of the diplomatic corps, and Mme. Mathieu; the Assistant Director and Mrs. Yanes and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kelsey. Mr. Kelsey is one of the architects of the building.

The official world and his wife, with his "sisters and his cousins and his aunts" turned out for the reception, which was one of the biggest as well as one of the most brilliant of the season, the guests numbering over 1,000. And each and every one of them was interested in catching a glimpse not only of the Colbys, but of Sir Auckland and Lady Geddes, who were among the early arrivals, and of Ambassador Shidehara and the pretty little person who is his wife. She wore European dress, a chic gown of black tulle and jet; and was a bit disappointing to lovers of the picturesque, who had hoped that she would bring to the colorful and beaming robes of the Orient—the gay embroidered crepe kimonos and but-

MRS. FREDERICK STOHLMAN,
Formerly Miss Dorothy Cahill.

terfly obis in which pretty little Mme. Nuida, for example, used always to appear.

The Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. Meredith, who may still be classed among the "interesting new-

Charming Bevy of Bonnie Brides of the Spring Season in the Capital



MRS. JAMES BARCLAY YOUNG,
Formerly Miss Kathryn Osgood Clifton.

Above—MRS. CHARLES McDONALD BROWN,
Formerly Miss Helen Connolly Baxter.
Below—MRS. HENRY LIVERMORE ABBOTT,
Formerly Miss Elizabeth Grinnell.

MRS. ARTHUR P. STARE,
Formerly Miss Ethel M. Denamore.

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comers" were also present, and a good many people had opportunity on this occasion to meet them for the first time. Of course, the Latin American diplomats turned out almost to a man. Most of the European diplomats were there to do them honor, as well as scores of official folk, and pretty nearly everybody one meets in Washington society—also, some one scarcely meets anywhere else.

Among others whom it was a distinct pleasure to greet were the American Minister to Switzerland and Mrs. Hampson Gary, who are just about to start off for their new post—at least, Mr. Gary is, although his wife doesn't expect to sail until some time in June, after the children's schools have closed—and the American minister to Poland, Hugh Gibson, who has just arrived here on a brief leave. Then there were the Minister of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes and Mme. Grouitch, the latter just back from a six weeks' trip through the West and South, in the interest of the

Serbian relief work, to which she devotes so much time—and one may almost say, genius.

Also there were Mr. and Mrs. Warren Delano Robbins—the first time I have chanced to meet them since their return from South America, although they've been settled here for several weeks, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Penfield, the latter just emerging from a period of mourning. Mrs. Robbins looks handsomer than ever, and is flaunting a white feather, the beginnings of one white streak in her abundant dark hair, that is amazingly pliant and becoming. As for Mrs. Penfield, she looked quite lovely in her black gown, and it was astonishing to hear the murmur of pleasure. "Why, there's Mrs. Penfield! Isn't it good to see her again?"—which went up from little groups all over the room as she made her appearance.

Since the tragic death of her father months ago—he was coming here to visit her and was killed in an automobile accident the very day her baby was born—she has been nowhere and has been devoting herself almost exclusively to her small

daughter. The little lady is called Virginia Bacon Penfield—after a succession of dolls which were once upon a time her mother's delight. Mrs. Penfield is one of the most genuinely popular young women in Washington society and she's been greatly missed all winter.

Arrival of Gibsons Stirs Curiosity.

The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Gibson created quite a stir of interest—and, yes, curiosity. Mr. Gibson's new wife is almost a stranger to Washington and there was almost as much craning for a glimpse of her as to get a good look at the Colbys or Sir Auckland and Lady Geddes. She's quite worth looking at, too, the former Mrs. A. D. B. Pratt, for she's a beautiful woman and she wears good clothes and knows just how to wear 'em.

On this occasion she had on one of the best-looking gowns noted in an assemblage where stunning gowns were the rule rather than the exception. A straight up and down slip, very short, of dark blue chiffon—the color of the midnight sky when it's just a bit foggy—was lavishly embroidered in a lighter shade of blue and Pompadour red and was posed over a narrow underdress of midnight blue satin, the skirt of which was cut several inches shorter than the rounded edge of the overdress. The décolletage was cut in a deep V back and front and there was a narrow rope girdle—of beads, if I mistake not. She wore Pompadour red hose, with gold slippers, and on her head she had some sort of a narrow fillet, with a jewel right where the little girl of the nursery rhyme wore her curl—"in the middle of her forehead."

The Gibsons have been at the Shoreham for a week or ten days, their first visit to Washington since their marriage, which was rather more than the usual nine days' wonder. They returned from New York for the marriage of Young Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., and Rachel Littleton on Thursday, but got back in time for the dinner which Mr. and Mrs. Rich-

ardson Gibson gave for them last night.

Rain Prevents Fete In Aztec Garden.

"To return to 'John Barrett's party'—the inclement weather spoiled what would have been the loveliest part thereof—the fete in the beautiful Aztec garden. It was to have been gayly illuminated, with dancing on the terrace and lantern slides shown outside by way of an added attraction. But not even the prayers of the righteous—granted that there were some righteous among the guests, most of whom admitted having prayed for fair weather—availed little in this case and the rain came down in sheets. Nevertheless, it was a most successful birthday party. In fact, the formal dancing in the Hall of the Americas followed the formal program—brief speeches by Secretary Colby, Ambassador Mathieu, Dr. Yanes and Mr. Kelsey, with Mr. Barrett as master of ceremonies—there was a perfectly good supper and the lovely patio, with its splashing fountain, its tropic foliage and its bright-lumed parquets, provided a charming spot in which to linger between dances."

Mr. Barrett was—and always is—a most hospitable host, and one somehow can't imagine Pan-American parties after he has gone—and he expects to go in June, unless he can be persuaded to reconsider his resignation.

Mrs. Colby looked a bit tired—and well she might, for she had been receiving all afternoon. She had, in effect, made her official debut that afternoon, when she had held a reception for the chiefs of diplomatic missions now in Washington and the ladies of their families. She had

merely on the hearth increased the atmosphere of coziness. Mrs. Colby was assisted in receiving by her daughter, Miss Katherine Colby, and Mrs. Frank L. Folk, wife of the Undersecretary of State, while a sub-deb daughter, Miss Frances Colby, seemed to be hovering in the offing. Mr. Colby came in during the course of the afternoon, mingling with the guests most informally and introducing himself to those who had not previously been presented. Mrs. Breckinridge Long, wife of the Third Assistant Secretary of State, presided at the perfectly appointed table.

Genuine Hospitality at Mrs. Colby's Reception.

Two days later Mrs. Colby had her first "Cabinet Wednesday" reception, which was marked by a good deal of informality and a genuine spirit of hospitality. It was intended that a small tea table be drawn up beside the fire in the drawing room, with Mrs. Colby to do the honors; but before the afternoon was fairly started it became evident that the function would reach the proportions of a good old-fashioned Cabinet reception. Consequently, a larger table was placed in the dining room, which has long windows overlooking the garden; Mrs. George W. Ehle was stationed there to preside over the tea equipment, and Miss Colby was called upon.

(Continued on Page Seventeen)

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